

CLAIMs

What is claimed is:

1 1. A service for managing a secure network boot of a server blade, the server blade being in
2 a blade chassis that has multiple server blades, the blade chassis including a switching means
3 allowing the server blade to communicate with a network, the service comprising:

4 storing a list of trusted management servers;

5 broadcasting a request for a boot program from a server blade to a network of
6 management servers;

7 receiving a response to the request for the boot program at a switching means associated
8 with the server blade, the response being from a responding management server on the network
9 of management servers, the response containing directions to a boot program server;

10 comparing an identity of the responding management server with the list of trusted
11 management servers;

12 upon verifying that the responding management server is on the list of trusted
13 management servers, transmitting the response from the responding management server to the
14 server blade, and downloading a boot program from a boot program server specified by the
15 responding management server;

16 upon determining that the responding management server is not on the list of trusted
17 management servers, blocking the transmittal of the response from the responding management
18 server to the server blade; and

19 upon determining that the responding management server is not on the list of trusted
20 management servers, generating an alert to a designated administrator server of a presence of an
21 unauthorized management server on the network of management servers.

1 2. The service of claim 1, further comprising:

2 coordinating different types of boot program servers available to the server blade by
3 maintaining, in an information technology services organization logically oriented between the

- 4 different types of boot program servers and the server blade, a permission list of boot program
- 5 servers authorized for each server blade in a server blade chassis.